

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A card connector comprising:

a rotatable ejecting lever having a first end and a second end and journaled at a fixed fulcrum, the second end moving in the direction of ejecting a card to push out the card when the first end is pushed in the direction of inserting the card, and the fulcrum being disposed between the widthwise center of the card and one of the first and second ends; and

distance varying means increasing the distance from the fulcrum to the contact point between the ejecting lever and the card during ejection of the card,

wherein the contact point is placed at almost the widthwise center of the card in an ejection starting stage, and is placed at the other end remote from the fulcrum in an ejection ending stage.

2. (original) The card connector according to Claim 1, wherein the ejecting lever is disposed in the back of the connector.

3. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, wherein the fulcrum is a journal integrated with a header having a terminal coming into contact with a contact of the card used for signal processing.

4. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, wherein the fulcrum is a journal integrated with a cover covering a housing forming a main body.

5. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, wherein the distance varying means include a first pushing portion and a second pushing portion disposed at the second end of the ejecting lever, the first pushing portion pushing the card in the starting stage of card ejection, the second pushing portion being farther than the first pushing portion from the fulcrum and

Application No.: 10/813,320

2

Atty Docket: ALPSP151/F US03070

pushing the card after the starting stage of card ejection.

6. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, wherein the distance varying means include a curved portion disposed at the second end of the ejecting lever, the curved portion pushing the card and being convex toward the front end of the card, the front end of the card being in the back of the connector when the card is in place.

7. (currently amended) ~~The card connector according to Claim 2,~~ A card connector comprising:

a rotatable ejecting lever having a first end and a second end and journaled at a fixed fulcrum, the second end moving in the direction of ejecting a card to push out the card when the first end is pushed in the direction of inserting the card; and

distance varying means increasing the distance from the fulcrum to the contact point between the ejecting lever and the card during ejection of the card,

wherein the ejecting lever is disposed in the back of the connector,

wherein the fulcrum is a journal integrated with a header having a terminal coming into contact with a contact of the card used for signal processing, and

wherein the card has a recess accommodating at least part of the second end of the ejecting lever, the recess being at the front end of the card in the back of the connector when the card is in place, and the ejecting lever is disposed so that the second end pushes the wall of the recess when the card is ejected.

8. (original) The card connector according to Claim 7, wherein the card has an upper wall covering the recess.

9. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, wherein the ejecting lever is disposed such that the second end of the ejecting lever pushes the front end of the card when the card is ejected, the card being in the back of the connector when the card is in place.

10. (original) The card connector according to Claim 2, further comprising a push rod pushing the first end of the ejecting lever in the direction of inserting the card.